

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12 and 14 through 23 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 24 are cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 1 through 10 and 18 through 20 would be allowable if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, and that claims 13 through 16 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to overcome the section 112 rejection, and thus applicant submits that claims 1 through 10 and 18 through 20 are allowable. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 21 to include allowable subject matter from claims 13 and 24, respectively. Thus, claims 11 and 21 are now allowable independent claims. Claim 12 depends from claim 11, claims 14 and 15 are amended to depend from claim 11, and claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 11. Thus, claims 12 and 14 through 17 are allowable. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21, and thus claims 22 and 23 are allowable.

Claims 11 and 24 are objected due to informalities. Claims 11 and 24 are amended. Applicant submits that the objections are overcome.

Claims 1 through 10 and 18 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 18 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the section 112 rejection of claims 1 through 10 and 18 through 20 is overcome, and requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 11, 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,602 to Mendelson et al., hereinafter "Mendelson". Claim 11 is amended to include allowable subject matter, and thus claim 11 is an allowable independent claim. Claims 12 and 17 depend from claim 11. For at least reasoning cited in support of the allowability of claim 11, claims 12 and 17 are also allowable. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 12 and 17.

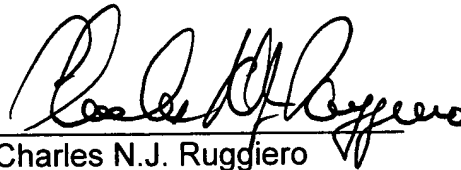
Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0086559 to Dalmau Ferrerfabrega et al, hereinafter "Ferrerfabrega". Claim 21 is amended to include allowable subject matter, and thus claim 21 is an allowable independent claim. Claim 22 depends from claim 21. For at least reasoning cited in support of the allowability of claim 21, claim 22 is allowable. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 22.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrerfabrega. Claim 23 depends from allowable claim 21. For at least reasoning cited in support of the allowability of claim 21, claim 23 is allowable. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 30, 2005



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